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Korean Guilty of Bribe Conspiracy, Perjury

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A U.S. District Court jury yesterday found Hanchu C. Kim, a Korean-born businessman from Lanham, Md., guilty on two charges of conspiring to bribe members of Congress for the Korean CIA and of lying to the grand jury that questioned him about the matter.

Kim, 56, who was offered immunity several times by the Justice Department but preferred to stand trial, was impassive when foreman Olga King announced the verdict in the nearly deserted federal courthouse after more than seven hours of deliberation. Kim's wife, Soonduk, wept silently and was helped from the courtroom.

Judge Thomas A. Flannery, who presided over the four-week trial, told defense attorney David Povich and Justice Department prosecutor John Kotelly he would pronounce sentence May 19 after a pre-sentencing report has been received. The maximum penalty on each count of the indictment is five years in prison and a \$10,000 fine.

Povich said he would appeal the verdict. Kim, on advice of his lawyer, declined to answer questions as he left the courthouse, but he shook hands with reporters he had gotten to know over the past month of daily court sessions.

FLANNERY, ON request of the government, required Kim to surrender his passport to the clerk of the court. In allowing Kim to remain at liberty on personal bond, the judge warned him that failure to appear for sentencing would result in indictment under the bail bond law.

The jury of six men and six women essentially found Kim guilty of conspiring with KCIA chief Yang Do-an and KCIA agent S.K. Kim to use a fund of \$600,000 to bribe American congressmen in order to influence

them favorably toward the Republic of Korea.

Hanchu Kim did not take the stand in his own defense, but his attorneys acknowledged that he was an unashamed supporter of the government of President Park Chung Hee and that he had written at least two newspaper articles backing the Seoul government.

The government did not accuse Hanchu Kim of actually carrying out the scheme to bribe congressmen. In fact, evidence indicated that he knew only one member of the House, Rep. Tennyson Guyer, D-Ohio, and that was because both had attended Findlay College in Ohio.

Guyer arranged for two pro-Korea articles by Kim to be inserted into the Congressional Record, but there was no evidence that the defendant ever used any of the money obtained from the KCIA for bribery.

THE VERDICT indicates that the jury believed Hanchu Kim received the \$600,000 from S.K. Kim but applied it to his own debts and personal expenditures, as the government claimed.

S.K. Kim, who has defected to the United States and is under protection of the federal government, was the principal witness against Hanchu Kim.

The two men are not related. S.K. Kim was on the stand for three days relating in great detail how he gave Kim the \$600,000 to carry out Operation White Snow.

The jury also was impressed with prosecution evidence indicating that Hanchu Kim had given S.K. Kim a receipt and that Hanchu Kim's fortunes took a remarkable turn for the better after Sept. 12, 1974, when the KCIA funds began to reach him via S.K. Kim.

Povich called only three witnesses, including wealthy Korean rice dealer Tongsun Park, who testified that he did not know Hanchu Kim. Park figured marginally in the assemblage of KCIA funds because \$44,000 of \$500,000 he gave to Gen. Yang in "loans" was passed on to Hanchu Kim by S.K. Kim, according to testimony.

Kim did not testify. But he previously had told reporters he never worked for the KCIA and never accepted any money from S.K. Kim or other agents. Povich told the court Hanchu Kim had been allowed to bring more than \$400,000 of his own money into the United States from South Korea, which he said accounted for the spending activity cited by the government.

Povich relied heavily on the fact that Kim frequently travels back and forth to Korea while S.K. Kim has to live under guard. The defense attorney asked the jury how Kim could go safely back and forth to Seoul if he was guilty of keeping the \$600,000 without carrying out his part of the alleged conspiracy.

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